

REVISED BY
STUART...
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IRON MAN

Notes on a Screen Treatment by
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IRON MAN! The "Golden Avenger" whose technologically advanced, solar powered armor makes him the mightiest fighting force on the face of the planet-- a one-man armored division, with the firepower of an army. Magnetic power-- powerful repulsor rays-- flight rockets-- Iron Man's got it all. But is "he" truly a man-- or just a nearly indestructible robot, operated from a distance by a skilled operator? No one knows except Iron Man's creator.

ANTHONY (TONY) STARK! The very name, to the devotees of the supermarket tabloids and the "Entertainment Tonight" crowd, conjures up visions of a young Howard Hughes, with more money than God and more beautiful women than Warren Beatty ever dreamed of. A mustachioed playboy of the Western world, whose fortune is founded on his undoubted genius in the field of military technology. Yet, beneath this glossy exterior beats a flawed heart-- which, aggravated by a few too many drinks during times of stress, could leave him vulnerable to a devastating heart attack.

These two men-- if indeed there is a human being inside that gleaming Iron Man armor-- seem as different as night and day, yet as complementary as bullet-- and gun.

In reality, however, they are one in the same man. A man devoted to fighting evil in all its myriad incarnations. A man

who puts his life on the line, in a double existence known only to one other man: his friend -- JIM RHODES.

JIM RHODES, a.k.a. "RHODEY," is the hard-luck vet who, in a single daring act of courage, goes from unemployed veteran to friend and confidant of Tony Stark. M.C. Hammer with an action edge. The only man who not only knows for certain that there is a man inside the Iron Man armor-- but who knows that that man is Anthony Stark.

There is also -- ANUBIS, Prince of Terrorists. Already feared and hated -- and employed-- the world over, this man who has taken the name of the ancient Egyptian god of death means to be responsible for more deaths than his mythological namesake ever dreamed of. His dream is to unleash his savage terrorism on the native soil of the United States itself.

The Armageddon Tank is a part of his dream -- and the world's nightmare.

The Cold War is over, but there are still enough hot spots from the Americas to the Middle East to make a new kind of warfare necessary. But which of two rival technologies will get the nod-- and the billions in defense contracts? The "Iron Man" robot designed by Stark Industries or "Armageddon," the futuristic, secretly atom-powered super tank created by Stane International.

The two titans of technology meet-- Iron Man vs. Armageddon-- in a fierce but indecisive battle staged for the benefit of D.O.D. bigwigs and military brass. Also present at this crucial demonstration is BENTON BLANDINGS, major stockholder of Stark Industries-- his daughter KIMBERLY, Tony's fiancée-- PATRICIA "PEPPER" POTTS, Stark's brainy and attractive secretary-- and OBADIAH STANE, owner of Stane International.

What no one knows is, Stark has decided that a robot won't cut it-- so he's adapted and donned the Iron Man armor himself, risking his life in the untried metal suit. But the tank is too much for the Iron Man exo-skeleton to stop, and Armageddon rolls over and onto him. Stark is hurt in the process, and the armor is destroyed-- but he's saved from discovery, if not from death beneath Armageddon's mass, by Rhodey, a new security guard. Stark, who wants to buy more time to build a second, superior, "Iron Man" armor, gives Rhodey a job as his personal bodyguard, in exchange for his not revealing there was any man-- let alone Stark himself-- inside the armor.

But Stark, beneath his cool exterior, has a chink or two in his human armor, as well; he drinks a bit more than is good for him, under the pressure of either getting this contract or seeing Stark Industries go under. Rhodey, whose seen good men

ruined by drink, enlists the aid of a clinic friend of his, DR. LAURA HILL, to try to convince Tony to give up alcohol. Laura, in fact, warns Tony that unless he gives up drinking, he's liable to have a heart attack. He says he'll think about it-- but there are sparks between Tony and Dr. Hill

Meanwhile, Stane decides he needs help to force Stark Industries into a situation wherein he can acquire the company. He secretly meets with the Egyptian- born "ANUBIS," the ultimate terrorist-for-hire. But Anubis has his own hidden agenda: He wants Armageddon, as the linchpin of his terrorist group, whose symbol is the ancient god of death. Not even Stane realizes just how seriously Anubis takes his ancient religion.

Stark survives Anubis' first attack when he's trapped inside the fully-automated assembly line of his sprawling New Jersey plant, and non-humanoid robotic arms are programmed to kill him. He survives, but almost at once faces an even greater threat. For Stane and Blanding have joined forces to wrestle control of Stark Industries away from him. Unseated at a board meeting, after Pepper has stalled them as long as she can, Stark hurries to his private lab, determined that his enemies won't get their hands on the newly improved Iron Man armor. But suddenly, there's a stabbing pain in his chest-- the stress has brought on that long-threatened heart attack!

Armed guards break into the lab-- only to be confronted by Iron Man-- with Tony inside-- who, using his repulsor rays sends the guards sprawling as he breaks free and flies away. The armor's special chest plate has acted as a pacemaker in time to save him from the ravages of his heart attack-- and from now on, Stark will have to wear that chest plate (though not the full

armor) on a full-time basis if he's to go on living. He has survived, but just barely and gasping for breath, he uses his last ounce of strength to propel himself to Dr. Hill's office.

Forced to reveal Iron Man's true identity to her, Laura pulls Tony back from the edge of death. Sharing his secret draws her to him but she is torn. Stane has gotten to her, and she's become his paid agent, believing the clinic's need for money to treat the poor justifies what she sees as mere "industrial spying."

Anubis and Iron Man clash. When Anubis puts a gun to Laura's head, Stark is forced to hand over the armor to save her life. Anubis kills her anyway, while Tony watches, helpless-- and then is taken captive. The Iron Man armor is now in the hands of the world's most dangerous man. Anubis means to have both it and the tank; the combination will make him undisputed king of the terrorist hill.

Anubis tries to use Tony's need for a drink to force him to reveal the suit's secrets, for only Stark can operate it. Anubis kills Stane and takes the mini-pack which will allow him to activate the super-tank. He leaves one of his men to wear down Stark. Without his armor, Tony is liable to have another fatal heart attack at any moment-- boy, could he use a drink!

At a gala party held at Gracie Mansion, official home of New York's mayor on Manhattan's Upper East Side, the Armageddon prototype on display is activated by Anubis, and wreaks havoc. Anubis' terrorists take over the executive mansion. Anubis demands an exorbitant ransom for the MAYOR, Blanding, Kimberly, et al.-- or he'll kill them and level New York with Armageddon.

Stark, overcoming his need for a drink, escapes and, reclaiming the Iron Man armor, bursts out of his prison-- and radios Rhodey and Pepper. While his minions dynamite all bridges and subways, effectively sealing off the island of Manhattan, Anubis takes Armageddon for a test drive, destroying an Apache helicopter sent against it and obliterating a NYC landmark or two. The time given to the city is running out. After that, the hostages start dying.

Suddenly, in the haze of sunset, Iron Man attacks-- and Anubis meets him in the super-tank. This time, it's no test! The tank is far larger, with more firepower than could be miniaturized inside Stark's armor-- and besides, its night now and Iron Man's solar powered charge is running down. When Pepper mentions to Rhodey that the party's klieg lights might supply the power the suit needs, Rhodey undertakes a daring mission to break through the armed terrorists to turn on them.

Besides which, there's a secret which Iron Man only now learns: Anubis never meant to take the tank prototype with him, only the plans to build another one. He means to blow up Armageddon, justifying its name by taking much of the city with it! He will escape via submarine which will surface in the East River. The nuclear clock begins ticking-- and time is short.

Iron Man and Armageddon clash. Once more, as in the opening sequence, Iron Man winds up beneath the gargantuan tank-- the suit's power is spent and the strain is pushing Stark towards a fatal coronary. But this time, suddenly, Rhodey turns on the klieg lights. Iron Man uses this brief source of power to turn over the tank and start to tear his way into it, to get at

Anubis. And the timer is only moments away from setting off the tank's nuclear devices.

Iron Man, with his last burst of energy, pushes the super-tank into the East River. It sinks like a rock-- drowning Anubis, who's trapped inside. Iron Man manages, in the nick of time, to turn off the triggering device-- then uses his magnetic rays to pull the escape submarine aground, where the police can overpower the terrorists.

Rhodey and Pepper spot Iron Man, collapsed, immobile. As they pull off the helmet, Rhodey expects to see Stark dead, but the armor is empty. Tony staggers in, claiming he'd controlled the "robot" from afar. (He's wearing the pace-making chest plate under his regular clothes.) With Blanding assuring him he'll regain control of his company, Stark declares the Iron Man is too dangerous to be given to the military or to anyone else for now. There can only be one Iron Man.